

Message Text

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FOL REPEAT OF SINGAPORE 1646 TO SECSTATE SMITHSONIAN OBSERVATORY
KUALA LUMPUR TOKYO JAKARTA APR 23

QTE:

UNCLAS SINGAPORE 1646

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EWWT SENV PLOS SN

SUBJECT: COLLISION BETWEEN JAPANESE TANKER & LIBERIAN REGISTERED
VESSEL IN SINGAPORE STRAIT

REF: SMITHSONIAN OBSERVATORY CABLE DATED 4/18/75

STATE FOR SCI/OST

1. SUMMARY: COLLISION BETWEEN JAPANESE AND LIBERIAN
OIL TANKERS IN SINGAPORE WATERS ON APRIL 17 RESULTED IN
SINKING OF JAPANESE VESSEL. NO SIGNIFICANT OIL SPILL ENSUED
AND NO EFFECT ON MARINE LIFE ANTICIPATED. GOS INTENDS
INVESTIGATE INCIDENT BUT LIBERIAN VESSEL LEFT SINGAPORE
ABRUPTLY BEFORE INVESTIGATION BEGAN. END SUMMARY.

2. AT APPROXIMATELY 2240 THURSDAY, APRIL 17, JAPANESE
REGISTERED TANKER TOSA MARU, 72,658 DEAD WEIGHT TONS (DWT),
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COLLIED WITH LIBERIAN REGISTERED TANKER CACTUS QUEEN,

149,634 DWT, INSINGAPORE STRAIT. COLLISION OCCURRED SOUTH OF ST JOHN'S ISLAND APPROXIMATELY ONE MILE FROM SINGAPORE PORT LIMITS. TOSA MARU WAS ENROUTE FROM JAPAN TO PERSIAN GULF AND THOUGH ITS TANKS IN BALLAST, CARRIED 2,100 TONS OF BUNKER OIL. CACTUS QUEEN, FULLY LOADED, WAS ENROUTE FROM PERSIAN GULF TO JAPAN.

3. FIRE BROKE OUT ON BOTH VESSELS. FIRE ON CACTUS QUEEN WAS PUT OUT WITHIN SEVERAL HOURS BY PORT OF SINGAPORE AUTHORITY(PSA) FIREBOATS. VESSEL SUSTAINED NO SERIOUS DAMAGE AND CARGO TANKS WERE NOT AFFECTED. FIRE ON TOSA MARU, HOWEVER, SET OFF SERIES OF EXPLOSIONS, AND VESSEL BUCKLED IN MIDDLE AND SANK AT 1300 FRIDAY, APRIL 18. NO LIVES LOST OR SERIOUS INJURIES SUSTAINED IN INCIDENT. TOSA MARU CREW RESCUED BY FUDL SUPPLY SHIP IN AREA.

4. ACCORDING TO PSA, SEVERAL SMALL SLICKS RESULTED FROM TOSA MARU BUNKER OIL LEAKS BEFORE TANKER SANK. SLICKS FLOWED AND DISPERSED IN SOUTHEASTERLY DIRECTION. SMALL QUANTITY OF OIL FOUND LEAKING FROM VESSEL AFTER SINKING, BUT THERE APPEARS TO BE NO SERIOUS POLLUTION THREAT. ALL PSA AND LOCAL OIL REFINERY BOATS CALLED OFF POLLUTION STANDBY WATCH APRIL 19. NO EFFECT ON MARINE

LIFE ANTICIPATED.

5.ON APRIL 18 GOS COMMUNICATIONS MINISTRY ORDERED AN INVESTIGATION OF INCIDENT. CAPTAIN SAY ENG LIN, ACTING PRINCIPAL MAKQNE SURVEYOR OF MARINE DEPARTMENT WILL HEAD INVESTIGATION ASSISTED BY SIN TECK EE OF MARINE DEPARTMENT, CAPTAIN ZANAIL ABEDDIN B MOHAMMED, DEPUTY PORT-MASTER, PSA, AND TEO SIAK WENG, PSA PILOT SUPERINTENDENT.

6. ON EVENING OF APRIL 18, CACTUS QUEEN LEFT PORT, PRESUMABLY BOUND FOR JAPAN, BEFORE INVESTIGATION TEAM COULD SERVE NOTICE TO CAPTAIN OF TANKER TO REMAIN FOR INQUIRY. GOS ANNOUNCED IT WOULD REPORT THE DEPARTURE TO THE FLAG STATE OF THE VESSEL FOR APPROPRIATE ACTION TO BE TAKEN AGAINST THE MASTER.

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7. REFTTEL PASSED AS REQUESTED TO PROFESSOR ANN JOHNSON OF NANYANG UNIVEREITY. PROFESSOR JOHNSON WILL REPLY DIRECTLY TO REQUEST FROM SMITHSONIAN CENTER FOR SHORT-LIVED PHENOMENA. CRONK UNQTE KISSINGER

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